

13431  
Nr. 13431

17 July 1956

TO: 38

FROM: 801

SUBJECT: Report of Kidnap Plan

1. According to information received from an American agency in Bermuda on 3 March 1956, one August Wilhelm PASCH, aka Fred BAILEY, contacted and reported that on 15 February 1956 one Druber MADEVIA-CH (sic), an official in the Arbeitamt (sic), Hamburg, contacted him and offered five million marks to kidnap General GEHLEN and deliver him to Soviet agents. If this was not possible, the same offer held if PASCH would assassinate GEHLEN. The offer ostensibly came from Frederick FELLEBERG, a Bürgermeister in an unknown town in the East Zone of Germany. MADEVIA-CH was reported to be a friend of the Bürgermeister, who had made a similar offer three years ago. PASCH said that both FELLEBERG and MADEVIA-CH received orders from Richard KREBS, author of "Out of the Night". (In this connection, it is noted that "Out of the Night" was written by Jan VALTIN, whose real name was Richard KREBS, and that he died in January 1951).

2. PASCH appeared to have a comprehensive, but generally known, knowledge of GEHLEN's activities. He said that this was the first occasion he has had to report this information to anyone, since he could trust no one in Germany. It is believed that PASCH was a crew member of a tanker of Liberian registration, the SS Febcal. His date of birth is 14 April 1913.

3. Our efforts to check out this rather fantastic report have brought out some interesting, but inconclusive facts. In the first place, there were no traces on PASCH, BAILEY, or MADEVIA-CH; the latter name is, however, obviously a garble. KREBS was born 17 December 1905 in Darmstadt, Germany. He lived in Hamburg in World War I, and was active subsequently in Hamburg in the International of Seamen and Harbor Workers (ISH), working under WOLLMEIER. In 1924 he attended the Lenin school in Moscow. In 1925 he attended a special school of the Profintern in Leningrad for six weeks, attending courses in organization of workers, direction of strikes, radicalization of strikes, etc. After returning to Hamburg he shipped out as a seaman and went to San Francisco, where he was arrested for assault with intent to kill and sentenced to San Quentin prison. After 39 months he was paroled and deported to Germany. After his return to Germany he was active

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in the seaman's cell of the International Port Bureau. He attended the Bremen Nautical Academy at the same time where he was supposed to organize a Communist cell among student ships officers. After graduation he became Secretary of the Interclub in Bremen which in 1931 became the Interclub of the ISH. In August 1931 he became Secretary of the Interclub at Hamburg, which moved to Copenhagen after Hitler came to power, and he was sent on ISH instruction missions to various European countries. In the fall of 1933 WOLLMEIER sent KREBS to Germany to do underground work among seamen, harbor workers and rivermen. He was arrested shortly after arrival, held prisoner for over two years, then convinced the Gestapo he had defected. He was sent by the Gestapo to Copenhagen to act as an informant among Communist and ISH persons there. Upon his return to Copenhagen he acted as a double, but was controlled by the Communists who, through him, fed misinformation to the Gestapo. Antagonism developed between him and WOLLMEIER and the Communists became suspicious of him. According to his own statement he escaped being sent to the USSR by making his way to France and then to the U.S. (in 1937). His book "Out of the Night" recited his career as a Communist agent in Germany between 1923-1937; the book is a mixture of truth and fiction. In 1942 after California pardoned him, he was ordered deported again. This was during the war and deportation was impossible. He was pardoned as an enemy alien and drafted into the army. He won the Bronze Star Medal for valor against the Japanese at Mindoro in 1945 and early in 1947 was granted U.S. citizenship. He died in January 1951.

4. Although the above traces are inconclusive, they do seem to bring out a common denominator, in that PASCH is a merchant seaman in touch with a Hamburg official, and that both KREBS and a fru FELLEBERG were for many years active in the Hamburg area in illegal Communist activities.

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